

EDITORIAL

Thirty Years of *Biochemistry*

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This issue marks the completion of the thirtieth volume of *Biochemistry* and the thirtieth year of my editorship. During these three decades, biochemical knowledge has undergone unparalleled growth and development and has reached out into the frontiers of biological sciences generally. The pages of *Biochemistry* constitute a significant part of the record of this scientific period, and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to guide the Journal during this period. When *Biochemistry* was conceived and started, its fortune was in the hands of a small group of enthusiastic and dedicated biochemists¹ who wished to establish a prestigious journal as an alternative to the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, which at that time was the only major biochemical journal published by a professional society in the United States. While there was, and still is, considerable overlap in the content of these two journals, the perception arose and still prevails that *Biochemistry* attracts the more chemical and structural and *JBC* the more biological aspects of biochemical science. The journals also differ in editorial policies, management, and character, thus providing the authors and readers with a choice of preference.

The success of *Biochemistry* and its acceptance by the scientific community are best documented by its growth during the last thirty years. I still recall how Milton Gordon, the first and only Assistant Editor, and I anxiously awaited the manuscripts for the first issue² and wondered whether there would be enough to fill the second and third issues for a bimonthly publication schedule. Then, as now, the new journal had to compete with existing journals for high-quality manuscripts and earn the confidence and loyalty of contributing authors, reviewers, and readers.

This is not the place to record an anecdotal history of *Biochemistry*, but some statistical milestones might serve as evidence of its growth and development.

Year	Manuscripts Received	Pages Published	EAB ³ Members	Subscription Price ⁴
1962	336	1203	12	13/26
1970	1037	5215	32	20/40
1980	1626	6260	36	37/148
1990	2313	11377	70	85/690

By the end of 1991, we will have published a total of approximately 188 000 pages. The Journal changed from bimonthly to monthly publication in 1964, from monthly to biweekly in 1970, and from biweekly to weekly in 1990. "Accelerated Publications" were introduced in 1982. The series entitled "Perspectives in Biochemistry" was introduced in 1987, and Volumes I and II of that series were published in 1989 and 1991, respectively. "Issues in Biochemistry" was introduced in 1991. Although the reputation of a journal should be judged by the quality rather than the volume of its pages, the growth of the Journal clearly testifies to the success of both. It may be of anecdotal interest that the editor and his staff opposed the page charge when it was first introduced; the charge was honored by some 85% of the authors and over the years produced an income of over 5.5 million dollars.

Our goals could not have been reached without the loyal and dedicated support of a great many colleagues and associates—too many to be cited by name. Several of them, however, deserve special recognition. Associate Editor **Milton Gordon** has served the Journal during its entire existence. **Ed Fischer** first served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, and thereafter as Associate Editor, as have **Earl Davie**, **Bill Parson**, and, more recently, **Dave Morris**. The location of the editorial team at the same site has greatly enhanced the efficiency of operation and the rigor and depth of editorial review. I am enormously indebted to the Associate Editors for their loyalty and dedication to a common task and for their fellowship and friendship. Very special thanks go to **Beverly Brown**, who has managed the Editorial Office during the last twenty years, and **Suzanne Shuey**, who has served for the past twelve years. Among the more than one hundred distinguished biochemists who at one time or another have been on the Editorial Advisory Board, **Bert Vallee** has served during the entire period. To all of them I wish to express my appreciation for their guidance and advice on editorial policies and for their help on difficult editorial decisions. Our thanks are due to the authors for their loyalty and their confidence in the Journal and its editorial process. Our computer file contains the names of over seven thousand reviewers, without whom we could not have reached our

goals. To them, summarily, I wish to express the sincere thanks of the editorial team. Last, but not least, I would like to record our indebtedness to **Charles R. Bertsch** and **Marianne Brogan**, whose dedication to the publication of *Biochemistry* throughout the past three decades has been exemplary. The support of the officers of the American Chemical Society and all staff associated with the Journal is gratefully acknowledged also. My very best wishes accompany the future of *Biochemistry* under the guidance of its new editor **Gordon Hammes** and his team.

- (1) The initial members of the Editorial Advisory Board included the following biochemists: Eric G. Ball, Herbert E. Carter, Edmond H. Fischer, Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat,

Joseph S. Fruton, Rollin D. Hotchkiss, Henry A. Lardy, Alton Meister, Esmond E. Snell, Herbert A. Sober, Merton F. Utter, and Bert L. Vallee. Warren E. C. Wacker was Secretary of the Board.

- (2) Among the contributing authors of the first issue were John T. Edsall, T. C. Bruice, Carl Niemann, J. S. Fruton, J. Steinhardt, H. R. Mahler, R. H. Barker, Jr., F. H. Carpenter, H. A. Sober, Stanford Moore and William H. Stein, J. M. Luck, H. A. Scheraga, B. L. Vallee, H. Fraenkel-Conrat and B. Singer, Erwin Chargaff, H. G. Khorana, S. Udenfriend, Martin D. Kamen, Alton Meister, M. L. Karnovsky, C. L. Ballou, Konrad Bloch, and Klaus Hofmann.
- (3) EAB denotes Editorial Advisory Board.
- (4) Member/nonmember rates in U.S. dollars.